Dialogue with cross-sections of society in J&K

*34. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the results of recent Jammu and Kashmir polls Government propose to enter into purposeful dialogue with cross-sections of the society and organisations like Hurriyat so that a peaceful atmosphere is created and sustained for a long term settlement within the Indian Constitution; and

(b) if so, what are the plans therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Government has always kept its doors open for talks with groups or sections of people within J&K who eschew the path of violence.

Central assistance to control crimes in NCR

*35. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States of the National Capital Region (NCR) have recently sought Central assistance to lauch a joint operation to eliminate hardcore criminal gangs operating in the region especially in Western Uttar Pradesh and Haryana;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the details and the present status of the proposal for creation of an NCR Police Force mooted several years ago?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) No proposal for creation of an NCR Police Force is pending before the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. However, a Study Group on "Integrated Law and Order Machinery for NCR", which was constituted under the overall concept of treating NCR as a Common Economic Zone has, *inter alia*, suggested to the National Capital Region Planning Board, Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation

for setting up uniform police/administrative system to control and monitor criminal activities on a regular basis in the NCR.

Attack on Swaminarayan Temple

*36. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a dastardly attack took place in the Swaminarayan Temple in Gujarat in the month of September, 2002 leading to heavy casualties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the probe into the attack has since been conducted and concluded;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any contingency plan has been drawn up to ensure safety of the citizens in temples and other religious places and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the compensation paid to each dependent of deceased and those injured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) On 24th September, 2002, two terrorists entered the Akshardham temple complex in Gandhinagar and resorted to indiscriminate firing leading to the death of 31 persons including 3 Security personnel and injuries to 84 others.

(c) and (d) The probe is in progress.

(e) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects and therefore maintenance of law and order is the primary responsibility of the concerned State Governments. It is for the State Governments to devise various methods and take concrete steps to improve law and order situation in the respective States. The Central Government, however, keeps a close watch on various developments in the internal security scenario of the country and sensitizes of the concerned States in this regard. It also shares intelligence with the States from time to time. Central Para Military